

The Church Mouse

Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



A place to belong...
A place to become...
A place to make a difference.

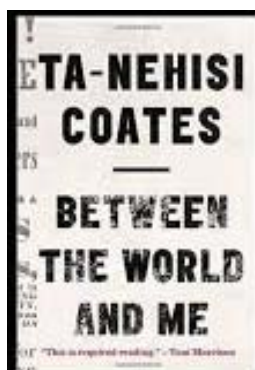
Volume 9 Issue 7



New perspectives

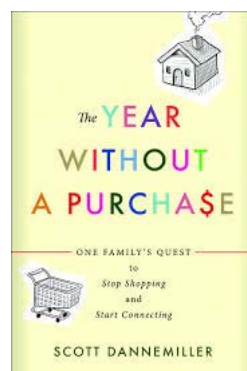
By Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor

There's nothing I like more than a good, thought provoking book. I love reading a story that invites me into a new world, a new perspective, a new way of being. It's part of the reason I enjoy youth and young adult books; the good ones paint a whole new paradigm and allow me to imagine who I would be in this new place. For the record, if I were student at Hogwarts, I'd obviously be in Ravenclaw House.



This summer I had the distinct pleasure of reading several books that challenged my viewpoint and asked something of me. The first was a memoir, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Coates wrote this book as a letter to his 15-year-old son, and it largely focuses on what it means to grow up as a black man in 21st century America. It's a profound little book, with some hard truths buried in its pages. Several weeks after finishing it, I'm still mulling over the words, wondering about my role in the vast system of race and class in our country.

The second book I've been sitting with is far lighter and more accessible, *The Year Without a Purchase* by Scott Dannemiller. Dannemiller, his wife, and their two children (5 and 7) decide to go an entire year without purchasing anything other than food and household consumables (like soap or toilet paper). The book is at times funny, a bit sarcastic, and definitely thought provoking. I'm not exactly a person who would call shopping a "hobby," but I certainly enjoy buying things. And when it comes to new books, I'm a total sucker. However, like Dannemiller, I sometimes worry that my stuff owns me, rather than the other way around. His family's experiment is well worth the read, and I think it's a valuable perspective to think about, especially as we begin the four-month ramp up to Christmas!



So, what about you? What books have you read this summer? What new perspectives challenged your own? What worlds have you visited and to which distant lands did you travel?

Special points of interest:

- > Letter from Mission and Outreach on Peacemaking, Pg. 2
- > Details of the upcoming Christian Education Kick-off on September 13, Pg. 3
- > Message to PPC Ladies to save the date, Pg. 6

Collect, Save And Bring to Church

- > Pull tabs
- > Box tops
- > Soup Labels

See Pg. 6 for more details

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 Smith Street • Milan, Michigan 48160

Telephone: 734-439-1922



Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver
Pastor

Peacemaking Offering 2015

Dear Friends,

Please join us on October 4, 2015 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the **Peacemaking Offering**. On that day we will receive and dedicate the Peacemaking Offering which supports the efforts of our congregation (25%), presbytery/synod (25%), and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%), to spread the peace of Christ and to give hope in the midst of challenge and conflict.

The Peacemaking Offering encourages each congregation to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. Our church will retain twenty-five percent of the offering, to be used locally for peacemaking activities. In the past, Milan High School (MHS) has been very appreciative of the money sent for peacemaking/anti-bullying and self-esteem/acceptance activities. We have also contributed to Safe House in Ann Arbor. Funds have been used to aid our schools with drug/alcohol prevention education. MHS representatives have visited Peoples Presbyterian the past two years to share how much our support has meant to the students. From the June Pentecost offering, \$216 was given to MHS to help support the on-going Peer-to-Peer mediation and Life-Savers programs.

PPC continues to look for ways to assist in worthwhile projects in our community. This year our 25% of the Peacemaking Offering will be divided between **SAFE HOUSE** and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's **EDUCATION PROJECT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH (EPHY)**. The EPHY program helps students in homeless and temporary living situations to attend and succeed in school. In Washtenaw County during the 2014-2015 school year, nearly 1,300 students were affected.

Let us be faithful in our work for God's peace in our community and in the world. Checks may be made out to **Peoples Presbyterian Church** with **PEACEMAKING OFFERING** written on the memo line. If donating cash, please ensure the envelope is marked with **PEACEMAKING OFFERING**.

Thank you for your continued support of this Mission.

The Mission Committee



Give what you **have**. To someone, it may be **better** than you dare to think.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Christian Education: C.E. Kick-off is September 13!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



Who's getting ready for Fall?? Christian Education is!! There's a lot in store for our Fall Kick-off on Sunday, September 13 for all the kids!

It will begin with Pastor Kelly doing the annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the children's message. So **please bring your backpack, book bag or lunch box with you to church**, so they can be blessed for a safe, productive and exciting new school year.

Attention Teachers, administrators and all school staff: You are also encouraged to bring your school book bag so you too may start your school year off on a very positive and blessed note.



The special Bible Story for the day will be Jonah and the Whale! Jonah saw no use in trying to convert the wicked and non-believers in Nineveh to become loving believers in God, as God had asked him to do. So, Jonah tried to run away from God. Not a good plan! God, in his wisdom, put Jonah through some dramatic, action-packed adventures. Only then did Jonah realize that it was his duty to share the love of God with others, and that everyone is worthy of God's divine love and protection.

The children are going to find out what it feels like to be swallowed by a huge black whale. The story of Jonah will be told inside such a sea giant... with a flashlight! Come take part in this awesome experience!! Everyone will be making their very own Jonah and the Whale to take home, along with a booklet that will tell the story.

As we learn to share the love of God and all the good He does, we will be starting a new Fall mission project. We will be collecting 80 bottles of body wash to be given to families in the Milan Community who need to hear and feel God's special love. We encourage everyone to join us in our mission of collecting 80 bottles of body wash that will be displayed in the Sanctuary until we reach our goal.



We will end this celebration with a family potluck following worship on C.E. Kick-off Sunday, September 13.

Come join us!!

The children have a challenge for the adults in the congregation: during Vacation Bible School the kids had the opportunity to decode a special Son Sparks Lab periodic table . . . it is not what it appears! The periodic table is on the window of the C.E. Office. Go ahead and take a look to see if you can decode it, too. Need help? Ask a child! Have fun!



Don't miss these events! Mark your calendar now!

November 22 - Ronald McDonald House, pull tab collection

December 13 - Christmas Pageant and Family Potluck

January 3 - Jesus' Birthday Party



Stewardship Committee Report: “Rebuilding our Walls” Update

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair



Peoples Presbyterian had a number of items that needed to be addressed around the church properties, for which we have been raising funds through the “Rebuilding our Walls” building campaign. Below is a list of those items and their status:

- ✓ Repair/replace the pumps/motors for the boiler heating system (also included flow switches) – Completed
- ✓ Replace the roof for the main portion of the church - Completed
- ✓ Waterproof and paint the manse basement - Completed
- ✓ Repair/update the nursery - Completed
- ✚ Paint the exterior wood surfaces of the church – To be scheduled
- ✚ Update the heating and cooling system controls from pneumatic to electrical – Still need funding
- ✚ Repair of the manse garage (replace siding) – To be scheduled

We’ve made significant progress on the church’s list of things that needed to be done. The items have been addressed in priority order, and the next priority is the painting of the exterior surfaces of the church. It is anticipated that this will be scheduled for late summer/early fall. Given the cooling dilemmas our congregation has endured this summer in the sanctuary, the electronic control update to the heating and cooling system may need to be addressed next, but we do not have enough funding for this yet.

As you can see in these photos, the nursery looks great!



Photo Credit:
Steve Barney

Stewardship has also participated, with both the Memorials and Scholarships and Christian Education committees, to provide updates to the media devices in the church for Christian Education. These items are being paid for through Memorial funds. So far, we have installed a new 55 inch LCD TV and BluRay/DVD Player in the church lounge.

As part of this project, updates for the Youth Room, including some minor wall repair and painting (this will be paid for through Buildings and Grounds funds) and adding new TV equipment (from Memorial Funds), will be done soon.



**Thank you to all for your donations,
assistance and patience as we
continue to “Rebuild our Walls.”**

Christian Education Report: VBS, "It was good"



By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

How exciting Son Sparks Labs was for our VBS this year! Our theme song was "It is Good," and how appropriate that was because it was a VERY good week indeed!!

We had grown in attendance last year by 38% and then grew another 10% this year – so we went from having 23 kids in 2013 to 45 kids this year along with 6 young adults.

Another record that we broke was the number of visiting churches. In addition to 17 children from PPC, 10 other churches were represented. Amazing that with so many different views on religion present, we had no discrepancy on the Bible lessons that were taught – so harmony IS possible!

Our outreach project, "Christmas in July," brought in over a hundred items totaling \$232 in supplies for Aid in Milan.

The "Knots of Love" mission project resulted in each of the 6 classes tying a soft fleece blanket to be delivered to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in the fall. Our guest minister, Mike Beckman, blessed all the blankets during worship to ready them for the children at Motts.

The offering totaled \$204. The money will be used to pay for the blanket supplies, purchase some baby toys and activities for the older children to busy themselves in bed, and school supplies for their educational room.

At our Grand Finale on Friday between 80 and 100 people came for worship, family potluck and a presentation by Ann Arbor's Hands on Museum. The kids (and adults) were entertained and amazed with the experience.

All the wonderful volunteers from our congregation were fantastic!! They taught classes and decorated rooms, organized the recreation, planned nightly snacks, manned the registration tables, donated food items or money. The Deacons were on hand each night to assist in the kitchen – thank you Deacons! Michele Ward, our office administrator, was an extremely important partner as we revamped many of the VBS forms and letters this year.

The Christian Education Committee wants to thank you as a total congregation for your constant support for our annual VBS. It took a "whole congregation" to make this week so successful! Thank you!!

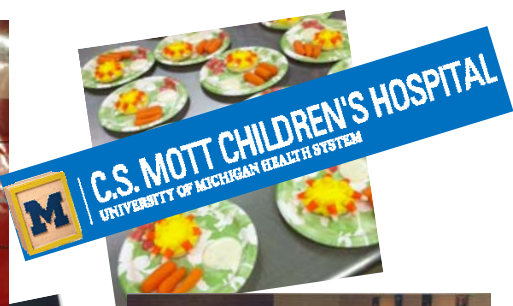


Photo Credits: Carol Heeringa, Nancy Kuzniar, Carole London

"Christmas in July" says Thank you!



Good morning,

On behalf of the *Christmas in July* committee and the Parish Council of Immaculate Conception Church, we would like to thank Pastor Shriver, Carole London, and the congregation of Peoples Presbyterian Church for their willingness and generosity in support of this year's event to benefit Aid in Milan.

We wish to extend our special thanks to all who brought in donations for the mission project during Vacation Bible School. With your help, the event collected over 1,500 pounds of food and personal care items (cash equivalency of \$3,439) and \$640 in cash and gift cards to help fight hunger in the Milan community.



Your participation is greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

Julie Gephart & Lisa Koch, Chairpersons, 2015 Christmas in July



Attention Ladies of Peoples Presbyterian Church Save the Date! Saturday, November 7...



Please join us at PPC on Saturday, November 7, from 10 to 11:30 am, for an enjoyable brunch and fellowship. There is no charge for this event. A full event agenda will follow in the near future.

For confirmation of attendance, watch for a sign-up sheet for this event in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Please email Jo Lawver, jolawver@gmail.com or Sue Barney, subarney@comcast.net, or see them at church.



Things to collect, save and bring to church!



This is a list of things we are currently asking for you to collect, save, and then bring in to the church to help with different missions we are working on. The items listed here will be printed on the first page of each newsletter beginning with this September 2015 issue. Your help with these collection is so needed and appreciated!

- > Pull tabs from soup and drink cans
- > Box tops and labels from soup and cereal boxes and various other food items





September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Membership 		1	2 7 pm Bookworms	3	4	5
6 10 am Worship, Communion, No C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk.	7 Labor Day Church Office is closed.	8 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	9 9 am Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9 am Choir Practice (resumes) 10 am Worship: C.E. Kick-off with Blessing of the Backpacks 11 am Potluck to celebrate C.E. Kick-off Session Packets are ready for pick-up.	14	15	16 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Session Meeting	17 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	18	19
20 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship: Minute for an update from Buildings and Grounds, C.E. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the October Issue.	21	22	23 9 am Bible Study	24 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	25	26
27 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking, Handbells, C.E.	28	29	30 9 am Bible Study			

Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street, Milan, MI 48160



The Reverend Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Email: ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org

Web address: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon. to Wed. 8am - 4pm

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9 am - 3pm; Thurs. 9am - 4pm



Newsletter Editorial Staff

Nan & Jack Cranson, Nancy Kuzniar, Gordon & Judy Parker, Michele Ward

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210 Smith Street
Milan, MI 48160